August 3

Matthew 15:10-20

Rite & Reveal

10 And he called the
multitude, and said
unto them, Hear, and
understand:
11 Not that which
goeth into the mouth
defileth a man;
but that which cometh
out of the mouth, this
defileth a man.
12 Then came his
disciples, and said
unto him, Knowest
thou that the
Pharisees were
offended, after they

heard this saying?
13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.
14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
15 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Declare unto

us this parable.
16 And Jesus said,
Are ye also yet
without
understanding?
17 Do not ye yet
understand, that
whatsoever entereth
in at the mouth
goeth into the belly,
and is cast out into
the draught?
18 But those things
which proceed out
of the mouth come
forth from the heart;

and they defile
the man.
19 For out of the heart
proceed evil thoughts,
murders, adulteries,
fornications, thefts,
false witness,
blasphemies:
20 These are the
things which defile
a man: but
to eat with
unwashen hands
defileth not a man.

First, let's address what Jesus was NOT saying:

1) He was not condoning eating with dirty hands.

2) He was not saying that because whatever is eaten is dispelled, it's acceptable to eat anything and

everything.

3) He was not saying everything people say is true and straight from their hearts.

Obviously, using dirty hands to eat could be unsanitary with regard to physical health. Also, eating certain things could be poisonous.

Further, people SAY all sorts of things that are not true, so Jesus was not saying any of those things.

What he said, first to the multitudes and then later clarifying to his disciples, was when it came to the ritual, or rite, they had of ceremonially

washing utensils, that didn't matter. What mattered was the condition of hearts.

Evil thoughts, murders, committing adultery and fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies come from hearts and

they “defile a man”.
Mid-topic, Jesus
also dealt with
another issue.
It was about
offending
religious leaders.
He dealt with that
because his disciples
told him he had
offended the
Pharisees.

The Jesus Principle on Offending Religious Leaders:

If God didn't plant it (whatever it is), it will be uprooted (dug up, unplanted). Leave them alone. If the blind lead the blind, both (the leaders and their

followers) will fall into **the ditch** *(likely in reference to doctrinal error and/or eternal damnation)*.

Whatever that ditch is, it doesn't sound like a great place in which to lead or to follow anyone.

Bottom line, it's

our hearts,
not our **rites**
that **reveal**
who we are.